

**TOWN OF CANTON BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

Wednesday October 11th 2017

4:30 pm

Minutes

Present: Supervisor David T. Button, Council members Paul Backus, James Smith, Bob Washo and Phil LaMarche

Also in Attendance: Attorney Charles Nash, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Lisa Hammond, Historian Linda Casserly, Recreation Director Caitlin Boreyko, Court Clerk Marc Armstrong, Deputy Highway Supervisor Steven Smith, Sue Mende, Klaus Proem, Toby Irven, Charles Rouse and many members of the public

Absent: Assessor Steve Teele, Highway Superintendant Terry Billings and Leigh Rodriguez

4:30 PM Supervisor Button opened the Town Board Meeting

Supervisor Button handed out copies of the purposed 2018 Budget calling for an increase in the tax rate to \$2.60 per 1,000.00 – a 5% increase over this year's rate. The purposed budget also calls for a 1.5% pay increase for employees, with the recreation department receiving a 2% increase.

1. **Approval of minutes of Previous Meeting(s):** The minutes of September 13th, 2017 Special Meeting and September 13th 2017 Regular board meeting were tabled to November 8th 2017 meeting
2. **Audit Committee:** The following bills for Abstract #10-2017 were approved for payment:

General "A".....	\$16,347.34
Town Outside "B".....	\$ 880.64
Special Lighting "SL"	\$287.73
Joint Activity "SM".....	\$1,923.00
Highway "DA".....	\$5,096.74
Highway "DB".....	\$92,251.95

Committee approval

Councilman Bob Washo questioned a bill being paid to Cobra Insurance for a former employee and asked where the revenue offset would show up. Supervisor Button stated they do offset and may be out of sync a little bit. Supervisor Button added that every Cobra payment that the Town makes gets recovered. Button will check into the health insurance account and report back to the board members.

3. **Director of Economic Development/Community Director:** Leigh Rodriguez's written report was submitted and approved:

Motion: Paul Backus Seconded: Bob Washo Vote: unanimous

4. Assessor: Steve Teele's written report was submitted and approved:

Motion: Jim Smith Seconded: Paul Backus Vote: unanimous

5. Historian: Linda Casserly's written report was submitted and approved:

Motion: Paul Backus Seconded: Phil LaMarche Vote: unanimous

Casserly gave a verbal report of her written report

6. Code Enforcement Officer: Russell Lawrence's written report was not submitted and approved:

7. Recreation Director: Caitlin Boreyko's written report was submitted and approved:

Motion: Jim Smith Seconded: Bob Washo Vote: unanimous

Director Boreyko added that the recreation department is transitioning from summer to fall. The ice rink was opened October 1st. Boreyko stated that they were awarded a grant through the Canton Community Fund program to purchase a new basketball hoop for Taylor Park. Also a grant was awarded through the Grasse Roots fund to purchase a new dock system for Taylor Park.

8. Highway Superintendent: Terry Billing's written report was submitted and approved:

Motion: Jim Smith Seconded: Phil LaMarche Vote: unanimous

Supervisor Button read the Highway report aloud
Deputy Highway Superintendent Steven Smith was present and presented Supervisor Button with payment from the Village of Rensselaer Falls for work performed.

9. Town Supervisor: David Button's written report was submitted and approved:

Motion: Paul Backus Seconded: Jim Smith Vote: unanimous

Supervisor Button read through his report

10. Town Clerk: Lisa Hammond's written report was submitted and approved:

Motion: Jim Smith Seconded: Paul Backus Vote: unanimous

11. Tax Collector: None

12. Legislators: None

13. Justice Court: Justice Court written reports were submitted and approved:

Judge Rosemary Philips \$10,320.25 Judge Christopher Curley \$6,071.00

Motion: Paul Backus Seconded: Bob Washo Vote: unanimous

Councilman Jim Smith read over the Justice Court reports aloud

14. Committee Reports:

Highway Committee: Jim Smith stated that the highway contract negotiations should be starting. Button will reach out to the Union Rep to get this process started.

Recreation Committee: Bob Washo stated that the recreation committee has not received a budget yet from Caitlin and Brien Hallahan but added they are working on it.

Waterfront Committee: Phil LaMarche stated that the committee held a public input meeting regarding a new draft of the Canton waterfront plan. LaMarche added that this plan is posted on line and the public comment section is still open for the next two weeks.

Comp Plan Committee: Jim Smith reported that he and Carol Pynchon held a regular meeting, a conference call meeting and the next big meeting will be a open meeting for the public at the BOCES building on the 16th of November. Smith encourages the public to attend from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Economic Steering Committee: Phil LaMarche reported that the committee is in the process of trying to host a housing stakeholders meeting to discuss current housing stock.

Shared Services Committee: Paul Backus reported that the committee met and had court discussions that went back for further review by the Village of Canton. Backus added that Code Enforcement will be discussed later in this meeting.

Supervisor Button asked if anyone would like to speak to issues that are not on the agenda

Ronnie Olesker asked that the nepotism and the issue of the code of ethics be addressed. Olesker asked if the board intends on drafting a nepotism clause in the code of ethics in the Town. Supervisor Button asked why we need one. Button added the questions of why don't we need a full review of the Town's entire ethics code. Olesker stated that the Town needs the nepotism component in light of recent controversy within the Supervisor office. Discussion was held on

reviewing the full code of ethics going forward. The public stated that they want to prevent problems in the future. Several members of the public spoke on the nepotism issue that in a comptroller's opinion became unethical in 2010.

Discussion was also held on premium payments for town health insurance. Attorney Nash stated that employees hired after 2002 were offered insurance with a higher premium payment. Supervisor Button and Town board members disagreed on who had the power to change the policy midterm. Councilman Bob Washo asked Supervisor David Button to step aside and let the board handle the issue. A committee was formed of Councilman Jim Smith and Councilman Phil LaMarche to review the premiums and report back to the board.

15. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Set Public Hearing for the 2018 Budget

Motion to set Public Hearing on November 8th, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. for the 2018 Purposed Budget

Motion: Bob Washo Seconded: Jim Smith Vote: unanimous

Motion to hold a budget work session will be held on October 25th at 5:30 p.m.

Motion: Jim Smith Seconded: Bob Washo Vote: unanimous

b. Dog Pound Agreement renewal:

Approval to sign renewal with Don Moyer for Dog Pound agreement

Motion: Bob Washo Seconded: Jim Smith Vote: unanimous

c. Allocation of Highway Funds:

Highway Superintendent Terry Billings requested that the monies from the Village of Rensselaer Falls construction DB be allocated for DA to facilitate the purchase of a new truck. Motion was made to approve this request

Motion: Bob Washo Seconded: Jim Smith Vote: unanimous

d. Appointment of Board of Assessment Review:

Motion to reappoint Bob Blewett to the Board of Assessment Review for a 5 year term was made

Motion: Jim Smith Seconded: Paul Backus Vote: unanimous

e. Executive Session – Personnel Code Enforcement Officer

6:12 p.m. motion to go into executive session for the purpose of Code
Enforcement Officer – Personnel

Motion: Jim Smith Seconded: Paul Backus Vote: unanimous

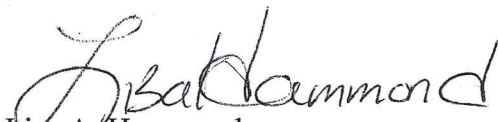
6:45 p.m. came out of executive session

Motion: Bob Washo Seconded: Paul Backus Vote: unanimous

6:46 p.m. meeting adjourned

Motion: Jim Smith Seconded: Phil LaMarche Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisa A. Hammond".

Lisa A. Hammond
Canton Town Clerk